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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/822,247

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Hansjurg Hunziker

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03/21/2005

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EXAMINER

FIGUEROA, FELIX O

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2833

DATE MAILED: 03/21/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/822,247

Applicant(s)

HUNZIKER, HANSJURG

Examiner

Felix O. Figueroa

Art Unit

2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 February 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 30-34 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29, 35 and 36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 30-34 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 April 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Election/Restrictions***

Applicant's election without traverse of Group I (claims 1-29, 35 and 36) in the reply filed on February 16, 2005 is acknowledged. Accordingly, claims 30-34 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention.

### ***Claim Objections***

Claims 20 and 35 are objected to because of the following informalities:

In claim 20 line 4, "the barbed-edge" lacks antecedent basis.

In claim 35 line 5, --a-- should be inserted prior to "main body".

Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1- 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kusuda et al. (US 6,224,430) in view of Martin et al. (US 5,876,246).

Kusuda discloses an electrical connector, comprising: a main body (31) having a plurality of terminal mounting portions (not labeled, at 34a-e) disposed on an upper surface of the main body; plurality of terminals (41a-e) coupled to the plurality of

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terminal mounting portions and having shafts (43) extending through slots (34a-e) in the main body to a bottom surface (see Fig.3A) of the main body.

Kusuda discloses substantially the claimed invention except for the first and second side flanges. Martin teaches an electrical connector (10 in Fig.1) comprising a main body (12) and a first side flange (left side in Fig.1) having a barbed-edge (20) and coupled a first side surface of the main body; and a second side flange (right side in Fig.1) having a barbed-edge (20) and coupled to a second side surface of the main body to fast and securely mount the electrical connector to a housing. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form the electrical connector of Kusuda with first and second side flanges, as taught by Martin, to fast and securely mount the electrical connector to a housing.

Regarding claim 2, Martin discloses a portion of the first and second side flanges being disposed apart from the main body to form a gap between the portion of the first and second side flanges and the main body.

Regarding claim 3, Martin discloses the flanges being made of flexible material.

Regarding claim 4, Kusuda, as modified discloses the electrical connector being adapted for insertion into a mounting surface.

Regarding claim 5, Martin discloses the first and second side flanges being adapted for compressing during insertion into an opening of the mounting surface and to snap back when the barbed-edges of the first and second side flanges clear the mounting surface.

Regarding claim 6, Kusuda discloses a plurality of barrier walls (33a-d) separating the terminal mounting portions.

Regarding claim 7, Kusuda discloses the main body being made of non-conductive material (col.4 lines 1-3).

Regarding claim 8, Kusuda discloses the plurality of terminals being made with a conductive material (col. 4 lines 35-37).

Regarding claim 9, Kusuda discloses the plurality of terminals includes an opening (see Fig.3). Please note that a recitation of the intended use (i.e. for receiving a wire connection) of the claimed invention must result in a structural difference between the claimed invention and the prior art in order to patentably distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art. If the prior art structure is capable of performing the intended use, then it meets the claim. See *In re Casey*, 370 F.2d 576, 152 USPQ 235 (CCPA 1967) and *In re Otto*, 312 F.2d 937, 939, 136 USPQ 458, 459 (CCPA 1963).

Regarding claim 10, Kusuda discloses the shafts of the plurality of terminals each include teeth (44a,44b) to lock into the slots in the main body.

Regarding claim 11, Kusuda discloses a cover assembly (30) disposed over a portion of the main body.

Regarding claim 12, Kusuda discloses the plurality of terminal mounting portions includes an opening (37) adapted for receiving securing hardware.

Regarding claim 13, Kusuda discloses substantially the claimed invention except for the connector being mounted to a power supply. However, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use

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the connector mounted to a power supply in order to provide an efficient and reliable output interface for the power supply.

Regarding claims 14 and 15, Kusuda discloses an electrical connector, comprising: a main body (31) having a terminal-mounting portion (not labeled, at/near 34a) disposed on a first surface of the main body.

Kusuda discloses substantially the claimed invention except for the first and second side flanges. Martin teaches an electrical connector (10 in Fig.1) comprising a main body (12) and a first side flange (left side in Fig.1) having a ridge portion (20) and coupled a first side surface of the main body; and a second side flange (right side in Fig.1) having a ridge portion (20) and coupled to a second side surface of the main body to fast and securely mount the electrical connector to a housing. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form the electrical connector of Kusuda with first and second side flanges, as taught by Martin, to fast and securely mount the electrical connector to a housing.

Regarding claim 16, Kusuda discloses a terminal (41a) coupled to the terminal mounting portion and having shaft extending through a slot (34a) in the main body a bottom surface of the main body.

Regarding claim 17, Martin discloses a portion of the first flange being disposed apart from the main body to form a gap between the portion of the first flange and the main body.

Regarding claim 18, Martin discloses the first flange is made with a flexible material.

Regarding claim 19, Kusuda, as modified, discloses the electrical connector being adapted for insertion into a mounting surface.

Regarding claim 20, Martin discloses the first flange being adapted for compressing during insertion into an opening of the mounting surface and to snap back when the barbed-edge (ridge portion) of the first flange clears the mounting surface.

Regarding claim 21, Kusuda discloses a barrier wall (33a) isolating the terminal mounting portion.

Regarding claim 22, Kusuda discloses a cover assembly (30) disposed over a portion of the main body.

Regarding claim 23, Kusuda discloses the electrical connector is mounted to an electronic assembly.

Regarding claim 24, Kusuda discloses substantially the claimed invention except for the connector being mounted to a power supply. However, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the connector mounted to a power supply in order to provide an efficient and reliable output interface for the power supply.

Regarding claims 25 and 26, Kusuda discloses an assembly for connecting to electrical conductors, comprising: non-conductive body (31) having a terminal-mounting portion disposed on a first surface of the body.

Kusuda discloses substantially the claimed invention except for the first and second clips. Martin teaches an electrical connector (10 in Fig.1) comprising a main body (12) having a first clip (20, right side in Fig.1) compressible for mounting; and a

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second clip (20, right side in Fig.1) compressible for mounting to fast and securely mount the electrical connector to a housing. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form the electrical connector of Kusuda with first and second side flanges, as taught by Martin, to fast and securely mount the electrical connector to a housing.

Regarding claim 27, Kusuda discloses a terminal (41a) coupled to the terminal mounting portion and having a shaft (43) extending through a slot (34a) in the body to a bottom surface the body.

Regarding claim 28, Kusuda discloses a portion of the first clip being disposed apart from the body to form a gap between the portion of the first clip and the body.

Regarding claim 29, Kusuda discloses a barrier wall (33a) isolating the terminal-mounting portion.

Claims 35 and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hutchins et al. (US 6,416,356) in view of Martin.

Hutchins discloses a power supply comprising: a power converter circuit (86); and an electrical connector (64) coupled to the power converter circuit, the electrical connector including, a main body having a terminal mounting portion (not labeled, see Fig.5) disposed on a first surface of the main body.

Hutchins discloses substantially the claimed invention except for the first and second side flanges. Martin teaches an electrical connector (10 in Fig.1) comprising a main body (12) and a first side flange (left side in Fig.1) having a ridge portion (20) and coupled a first side surface of the main body; and a second side flange (right side in



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Fig.1) having a ridge portion (20) and coupled to a second side surface of the main body to fast and securely mount the electrical connector. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form the electrical connector of Hutchins with first and second side flanges, as taught by Martin, to fast and securely mount the electrical connector.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Felix O. Figueroa whose telephone number is (571) 272-2003. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri., 10:00am-6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on (571) 272-2800 Ext. 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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